

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.**

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the CT General Assembly:

Good afternoon. My name is Hugo Alvarado. I am a member of Uniting for a Safe Inclusive Community - Manchester. I'm in favor of H.B. 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

Last year I gave testimony about the importance of having health insurance for immigrants. I'm happy that at least children up to 12 years old can have access now, but this is not enough. So today I'm going to give testimony again about how we immigrants without a social security number struggle with our health. I personally have struggled when I go to the hospital for some reason and they ask us for insurance, but we do not qualify for Husky because we do not have a social security number. We have to pay any amount, sometimes it is more than \$1,000; that amount is too much for us. That is why sometimes it is better not to go to the hospital. Also, there are other things we want to do or get checked, such as dentistry, vision, general check-ups, that we haven't done for years because we don't have health insurance. That's why it would be very helpful for us to be able to get Husky. We beg the people who have the power to decide whether to give it to us or not, to please grant us Husky insurance. Please support H.B. 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

Thank you,

Hugo Alvarado  
East Hartford, CT